

Bone Lake Frogs and Toads – A Summary of the 2012 Survey

Bone Lake is home to a total of seven frog and toad species. The “true frogs” are those with short, stout forelimbs, thick toes and a rigid skeleton that does not allow for turning of the head; they are often in the genus *Rana*: green frog, leopard frog, and wood frog.

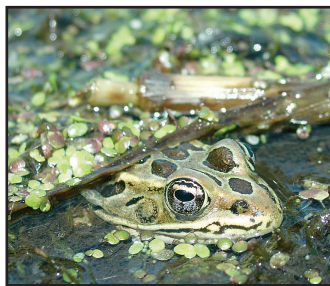
Bone Lake also hosts three species of tree frogs, with sticky pads on their flexible, gripping toes, and the ability to turn their head. They are the gray tree frog, spring peeper and western chorus frog. Also found around the lake is the American toad, an amphibian known for its dry skin, poison glands and stocky build.

Frogs and toads are amphibians that start life as an aquatic egg, develop into a tadpole and mature as an animal equally at home on land as in water. They breathe through their skin and their development is highly dependent on clean water and healthy aquatic and terrestrial habitat conditions.

Learn about Bone Lake’s amphibian population on this page and get the full report of the 2012 Survey of Bone Lake’s Frogs and Toads at bonelakewi.com. Then watch and listen for frogs and toads around your part of Bone Lake. How many of the seven can you find? Where?



WOOD FROG *Rana sylvatica*
 Earliest breeding frog in NW Wisconsin, recognized by their rusty-red body color and black mask.
HABITAT: Woodland ponds, marshes and ephemeral pools. Spends the summer in damp woodlands among the leaf litter.
CALL: Sounds like quacking ducks



NORTHERN LEOPARD FROG *Rana pipiens*
 Color ranges from brown to green. Suffers from habitat loss and toxins in water.
HABITAT: Ponds, shallow lake margins, wetlands; finds insects in tall grassy areas around water and inland.
CALL: Rubbing a thumb on a balloon



GREEN FROG *Rana clamitans*
 Recognized by its lime green mustache. Matures over 4 years time, tadpole stage lasts up to 22 months.
HABITAT: Spawns in littoral zone and depends on shallow habitat with hardstem bulrush. Stays close to a single location.
CALL: Plucked banjo string “glug”



AMERICAN TOAD *Bufo americanus*
 Tough and adaptable, found wherever aquatic habitats meet dense vegetation. Tadpoles develop in 40 days as herbivores, then switch to insect prey.
HABITAT: Shallow water, small ponds, high quality habitat.



WESTERN CHORUS FROG *Pseudacris triseriata*
 The least often seen. Rusty red to olive green with black streak on sides from front of eyes to hind legs.
HABITAT: Breeds in shallow marshes, boggy sedge meadows, woodland potholes. Lives among the leaf litter in damp forests.
CALL: Rubbing a thumb across a comb



SPRING PEEPER *Pseudacris crucifer*
 Bronze-colored, famous for its loud rich singing that signals spring has arrived. They seldom climb into trees, usually seen in forest leaf litter.
HABITAT: Small marshy lakes, woodland ponds, ephemeral pools.
CALL: High pitched peep, sleigh bells



GRAY TREEFROG *Hyla versicolor*
 Song peaks when spring air temps reach 60 degrees, also peak of breeding.
HABITAT: Shallow water. Fertilized eggs attach to vegetation and other structures in water. Ephemeral pools, small pond wetlands. Like other forest frogs, hibernates beneath pulpy wood and leaf litter.
CALL: Fast, harsh nasal trill

Maintaining frog populations requires attention to all aspects of the life cycles of this diverse group of sensitive animals. Shoreline buffers of natural vegetation, clean water, intact tracts of forest, protected and secluded wetlands and protection of lowland areas and woodland pools are all important to protecting the frogs and keeping the choruses rich and strong.

